



OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY GENERAL • METROPOLITAN NASHVILLE DAVIDSON COUNTY

NEWS RELEASE

WASHINGTON SQUARE, SUITE 500 • 222 2ND AVENUE NORTH • NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE 37201

VICTOR S. (TERRY) JOHNSON III

DISTRICT ATTORNEY GENERAL

July 25, 2008

Davidson County District Attorney General Torry Johnson is urging the Tennessee Board of Probation and Parole to deny the application for parole for convicted murderer John A. Brown. Johnson today sent a letter to Board Chairman Charles Traugher, stating his fervent hope that Brown will remain incarcerated for the rest of his life.

“This office is unalterably opposed to any favorable parole consideration for Mr. Brown,” says Johnson. “This is not the type of crime where parole should be an option. Our office has in the past opposed the early release of John Brown, and we staunchly continue to do so.”

Brown was sentenced to serve 198 years for the 1973 murder of David “Stringbean” Akeman and his wife, Estelle Akeman. John and Marvin Brown were convicted of ambushing Mr. Akeman in his home during a robbery. They shot and killed Mr. Akeman after robbing him, then chased down Mrs. Akeman as she tried to run from the scene, and executed her in her front yard. Marvin Brown is now deceased.

At the time of these crimes, Tennessee had neither a death penalty nor a life sentence without parole option. “This is clearly a case that would merit the strongest sentence available to the court at the time. It’s apparent that when the trial judge sentenced Brown to serve two consecutive 99-year terms, it was his intention for Brown to spend the rest of his life in jail,” says Johnson. “To release this convicted double murderer would be an affront to these victims, and the court.”

A copy of the letter sent to the Board of Probation and Parole is included.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Susan Niland, Director of Communications • 615-862-5500 x148 • susanniland@jjs.nashville.org



OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY GENERAL

VICTOR S. JOHNSON III
District Attorney General

July 25, 2008

The Honorable Charles Traughber
Chairman, Board of Probation and Parole
404 James Robertson Parkway, Suite 1300
Nashville, TN 37243-0850

RE: John A. Brown, TDOC #78576
State of Tennessee vs. John A. Brown
Case Numbers: B-2678 and B-2679

Dear Chairman Traughber:

Thank you for your telephone call about the recent parole hearing for Mr. Brown. While I respect the difficult decisions the Parole Board must make, I cannot agree that he should be released from prison. The murders of David and Estelle Akeman shocked the Nashville community. Nashvillians were outraged that two beloved citizens could be mercilessly killed at their own home. After an extensive investigation, John and Marvin Brown were tried, convicted and sentenced to 198 years for these brutal murders. Both the jury and the trial judge intended that John Brown never be free in society again.

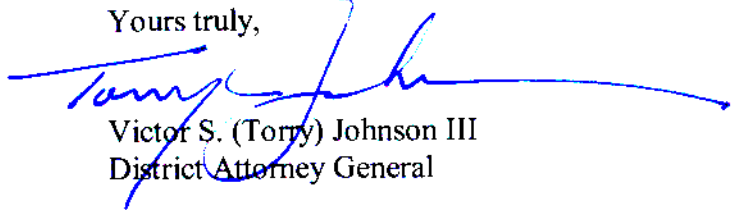
While he may well have taken significant steps to improve his life while incarcerated, it in no way atones for his crime. Simply put, some crimes are so callous and depraved that no amount of "good works" should justify the perpetrator's release from prison. Some crimes are so cold-blooded and atrocious that the defendant should forfeit his right to ever be free again. Some crimes are so appalling and reprehensible that those responsible should be locked away forever in order to vindicate society's interest in punishing evil.

In this case, rehabilitation is irrelevant. The community's interest in certain and severe punishment should be paramount and should trump any claim that John Brown has for seeking his freedom. If the Parole Board votes to release the likes of John Brown, its decision will

The Honorable Charles Traughber
July 25, 2008
Page 2

undermine the legitimacy of the very criminal justice system that sentenced him. Although 35 years have passed, it should not dim the recollection of the crime or diminish its savagery, and I, for one, strongly oppose his release. I would appreciate your circulating this letter to the other members of the Parole Board who must weigh his case.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Torry Johnson", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Victor S. (Torry) Johnson III
District Attorney General

VSJ/ja

cc: Robert Bo Irvin, Executive Director
Tennessee Probation and Parole Board

James W. Kirby, Executive Director
TN District Attorneys General Conference